

Serial No. 10/722,390
Amdt. dated June 6, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2007

Docket No. K-0579

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hook assembly for a door of a washing machine, comprising:
 - a pair of supporters configured to directly extend from an inside of a doorframe of a washing machine;
 - a shaft configured to penetrate the pair of supporters;
 - a hook configured to be rotatably coupled to the shaft and having a head configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed; and
 - an elastic member configured to give an elastic force to the hook, wherein the doorframe comprises separable inner and outer frames, and wherein the pair of supporters extend from either the inner frame or the outer frame; and
 - stoppers configured to extend from an inside of the doorframe and prevent the shaft from being separated from the pair of supporters.

2-4. (Canceled)

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5. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim [4]1, wherein the pair of supporters lie between the stoppers.

6. (Original) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein a distance between the stoppers is greater than the length of the shaft.

7. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim [4]1, wherein the stoppers extend from the inner and outer frames, respectively.

8. (Currently Amended) The hook assembly as claimed in claim [4]1, wherein each of the stoppers comprises a reinforcement rib provided to one side opposite to the other side supporting a corresponding end of the shaft.

9. (Previously Presented) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a grip having one end rotatably connected to the shaft and the other end externally exposed, wherein the one end elastically turns the hook if the other end moves.

10. (Previously Presented) The hook assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein both ends of the elastic member are connected to the hook and the grip, respectively, so that the hook is moved together with the grip.

11. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, comprising:
a cabinet having an entrance at a front side;
a tub in the cabinet;
a drum rotatably provided in the tub; and
a door assembly coupled to the cabinet to open/close the entrance, the door assembly comprising:
a doorframe hinge-coupled to the cabinet;
a pair of supporters configured to directly extend from an inside of the doorframe;
a shaft configured to penetrate the pair of supporters;
a hook configured to rotatably coupled to the shaft and having a head configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed; and
an elastic member provided in the doorframe configured to give an elastic force to the hook, wherein the doorframe comprises separable inner and outer frames, and wherein the pair of supporters extend from either the inner frame or the outer frame; and

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stoppers configured to extend from an inside of the doorframe and prevent the shaft from being separated from the pair of supporters.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein the pair of supporters lie between the stoppers.

16. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein a distance between the stoppers is greater than a length of the shaft.

17. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein the stoppers extend from the inner and outer frames, respectively.

18. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein each of the stoppers comprises a reinforcement rib provided to one side opposite to the outer side supporting a corresponding end of the shaft.

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19. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a grip having one end rotatably connected to the shaft and the other end externally exposed, wherein the one end elastically turns the hook if the other end moves.

20. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein both ends of the elastic member are connected to the hook and the grip, respectively, so that the hook is moved together with the grip.

21. (Previously Presented) A washing machine, comprising:
a cabinet having an entrance at a front side;
a tub in the cabinet;
a drum rotatably provided in the tub; and
a door assembly coupled to the cabinet to open/close the entrance, the door assembly comprising:
a doorframe hinge-coupled to the cabinet
a pair of supporters configured to directly extend from an inside of a doorframe of a washing machine;
a shaft configured to penetrate the pair of supporters;

a hook configured to be rotatably coupled to the shaft and having a head configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed;

an elastic member configured to give an elastic force to the hook; and

stoppers configured to extend from an inside of the doorframe and prevent the shaft from being separated from the pair of supporters.

22. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the pair of supporters lie between the stoppers.

23. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 22, wherein a distance between the stoppers is greater than a length of the shaft.

24. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the doorframe comprises separable inner and outer frames and wherein the stoppers extend from the inner and outer frames, respectively.

25. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein each of the stoppers comprises a reinforcement rib provided to one side opposite to the outer side supporting a corresponding end of the shaft.

26. (Previously Presented) A washing machine, comprising:

- a cabinet having an entrance at a front side;
- a tub in the cabinet;
- a drum rotatably provided in the tub; and
- a door assembly coupled to the cabinet to open/close the entrance, the door assembly comprising:
 - a doorframe hinge-coupled to the cabinet
 - a pair of supporters configured to directly extend from an inside of a doorframe of a washing machine;
 - a shaft configured to penetrate the pair of supporters;
 - a hook configured to be rotatably coupled to the shaft and having a head configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed;
 - an elastic member configured to give an elastic force to the hook; and
 - a grip having one end rotatably connected to the shaft and the other end externally exposed, wherein the one end elastically turns the hook if the other end moves.

27. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein both ends of the elastic member are connected to the hook and the grip, respectively, so that the hook is moved together with the grip.